

IEPA Log No.: **C-0086-16**
CoE appl. #: **2016-00146**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **September 28, 2016**
Public Notice Ending Date: **October 13, 2016**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Division of Water Pollution Control
Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Shoreacres, 1601 Shore Acres Road, Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Discharge Location: Section 9, T44N, R12E of the 3rd P.M. in Lake County within Lake Bluff.

Name of Receiving Water: Lake Michigan.

Project Description: Bluff Stabilization Project.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please call Thaddeus Faught at 217/782-3362.

TJF:0086-16PN.docx

**Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
Shoreacres – Lake Michigan – Lake County
IEPA Log# C-0086-16
CoE # 2016-00146
Contact: Scott Twait 217/558-2012
September 28, 2016**

The applicant proposes to repair and maintain an existing rock revetment along 500 LF of existing steel seawall of Lake Michigan. Work would occur along existing rock apron above the seawall with expansion of the rock west to include the base of severely eroding bluff areas. The eroding bluff would be restored utilizing a biotechnical method and the new bluff would be at a 1.8:1 ratio (H:V) along 300 LF of Lake Michigan. The restored bluff area would be planted with native plant species.

The rock revetment repair is located at the bottom of the seawall and below the OHWL (581.5 GDL) of the Lake. Proposal is to install approximately 2,300 tons of rock (3,000 cubic yards) which amounts to approximately 0.2 acres of rock fill below the OHWM.

The existing bluff is dominated by invasive smooth sumac, and other invasive plants. The project would provide shoreline habitat diversity, significantly reduced discharge of eroding soils into Lake Michigan-thereby improving water quality, convert a degraded riparian buffer into native species, improve aquatic and wildlife habitat, and reduce soil loss and sediment transport.

The existing rock revetment at or below OHWL is 0.17 acres. The proposed footprint of additional rock revetment beyond the existing rock revetment at or below is 0.08 acres. No mitigation is required since the additional rock revetment is less than 0.1 acre.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Lake Michigan has a 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. Lake Michigan is classified as a Lake Michigan Basin Use Water. Lake Michigan is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, nor is it given an integrity rating in that document. Lake Michigan, Waterbody Segment, QLM-01, is listed on the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for fish consumption use with potential causes given as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls and aesthetic quality use with potential cause given as phosphorus. Aquatic life, public and food processing water supply, primary recreational contact, and secondary contact uses are fully supported.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The repair and maintenance of the existing rock revetment along 500 LF of existing steel seawall of Lake Michigan will fill an additional 0.08 acres beyond the existing 0.17 acres of existing rock revetment.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids, from the repair and maintenance of the existing rock revetment along 500 LF of existing steel seawall of Lake Michigan will be local and temporary. No mitigation is required since the additional rock revetment is less than 0.1 acre.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of the repair and maintenance of the existing rock revetment decreases erosion of soils and increase the stability of the bluff.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

Placement of rock materials is required to stabilize the existing seawall installed in the 1970's. Overlying bluff slopes have eroded back to 1.3:1 (H:V). Proposed bluff stabilization and construction along the bluff will require adequate reinforcement of the existing seawall in order to maintain the structural integrity of the proposed design. Repair of tiebacks will not provide the required structural integrity for the proposed project. The top of bottom of the bluff slope footprint are limited by the seawall at bottom and by structures located immediately above the top of bluff.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities.

On February 23, 2016, the IDNR EcoCAT web-based tool was used and indicated that there were protected resources (Blair Woods INAI Site, Blodgett Bluff INAI Site, Crabtree Farm Woods INAI Site, Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Ground Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)) present in the vicinity of the discharge. IDNR evaluated the submittal and determined that impacts to the protected resources are unlikely. IDNR terminated the consultation request on March 26, 2016.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time the draft permit was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all existing uses of the receiving stream will be maintained; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity will benefit the community at large by decreasing erosion of soils and increasing the stability of the bluff. Comments received during the 401 water quality certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.